

A photograph of the entrance to the Arkansas State Capitol building. The image shows a grand doorway framed by two large, fluted columns. Above the door is a decorative pediment featuring a circular medallion. The door itself is ornate, with multiple panels and decorative elements. The steps leading up to the entrance are visible in the foreground.

Arkansas State Capitol

A Self-Guided Tour

Dear Visitor:

Welcome to the Arkansas State Capitol! I take great pride in the history that embraces this building and find it a rare privilege to be able to share it with you. One of my most important duties as

Secretary of State is maintaining and preserving the rich history of the Arkansas State Capitol. Since 1915, this building has been the center of



Arkansas's state government. In addition to being a beautiful historic landmark, the Arkansas State Capitol is a "Living Legacy" with six of the state's seven constitutional officers and their staff housed in the building.

I hope you enjoy your time at the Arkansas State Capitol. Please feel free to stop by the Capitol tour desk with any additional questions or comments that you may have. You are always welcome to come back with your friends and family for another visit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charlie Daniels". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Charlie Daniels

Arkansas Secretary of State

CAPITOL DIRECTORY

(Areas in bold detailed in brochure)

First Floor

Tour Desk
Exhibit Cases
State Capitol Police Desk
State Land Commissioner - Room 109

Second Floor

Governor's Office - Room 250
Secretary of State's Office - Room 256
State Treasurer's Office - Room 220
State Auditor's Office - Room 230
Lieutenant Governor's Office - Room 270
Governor's Reception Room - North End
Rotunda - Center
Old Supreme Court Chamber - South End

Third Floor

Senate Chamber - South
House Chamber - North

Fourth Floor

Senate Gallery - South
House Gallery - North

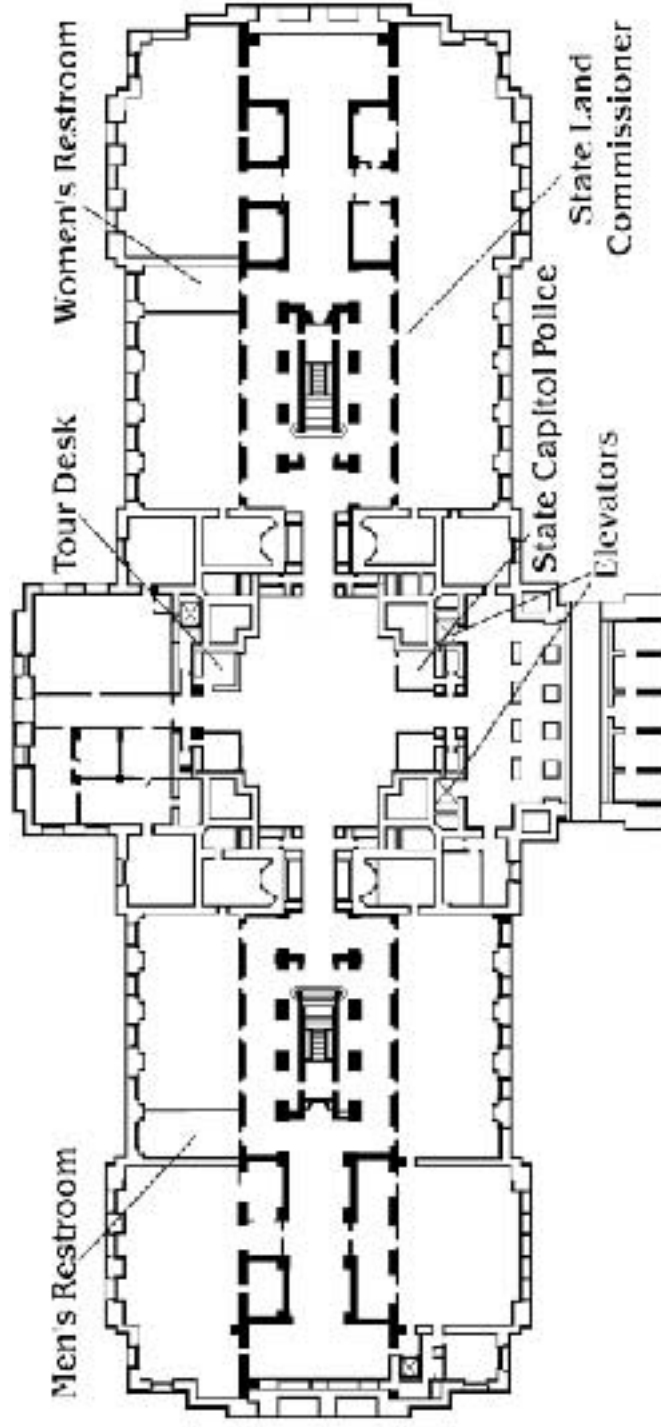
Please sign the tour desk guest register

Elevators can be found on the east side of the building

Photographs are allowed in tour areas

Other Points of Interest

- "Building Forever," a 20-minute movie detailing the fascinating construction history of the Capitol - First Floor, Rotunda
 - The Distinguished Arkansans Gallery and Military Exhibit - Fourth Floor
- The beautiful Capitol grounds containing seasonal plants, native trees, historic statues, monuments and memorials



First Floor

The First Floor

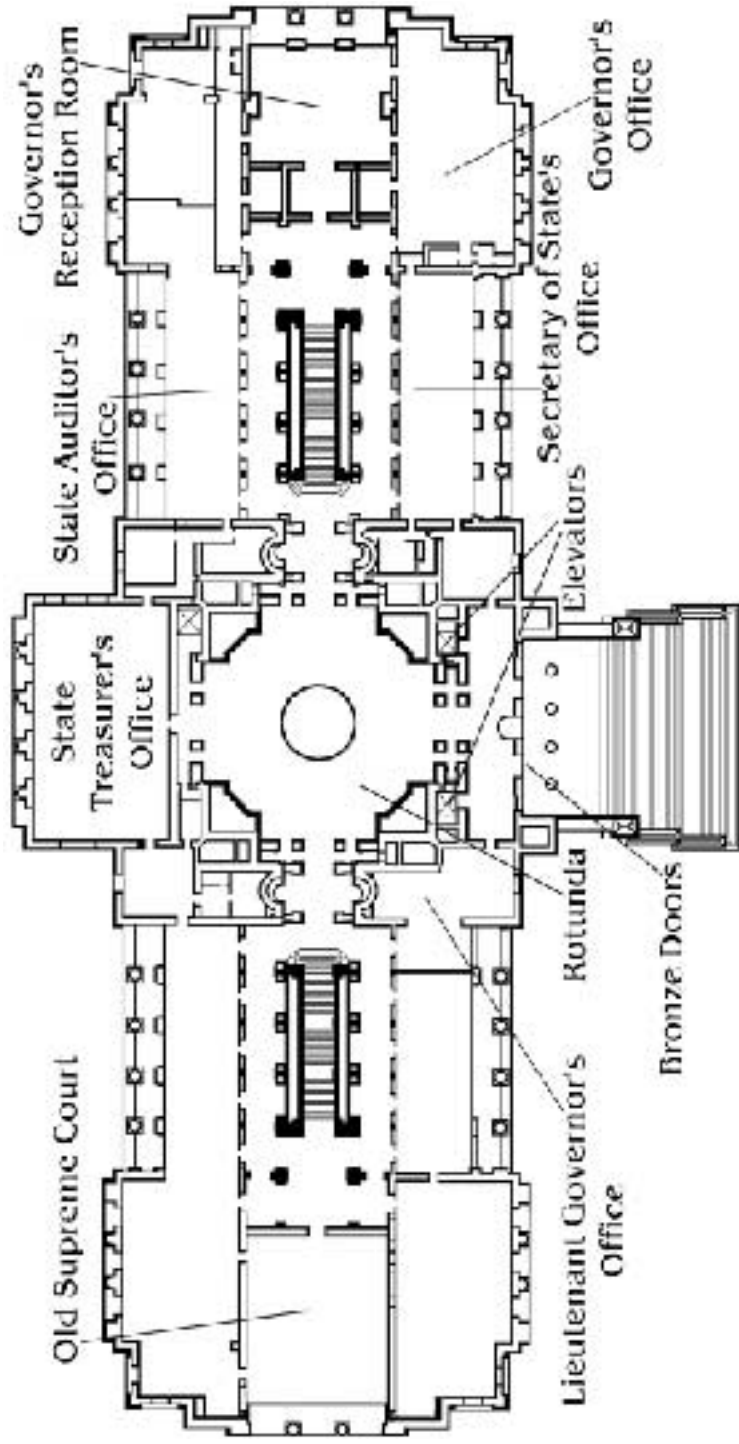
Construction History

The Arkansas State Capitol was constructed between 1899 and 1915 on the site of the old state penitentiary using prison labor. The original construction cost was not to exceed \$1 million. After two architects, two general contractors, six Capitol Commissions and three governors, the completed Capitol cost almost \$2.3 million. The neo-classical style of the building is a common style found in monumental architecture of the early 20th century. The marble on the floors and walls came from Vermont, the columns from Colorado, and the grand staircases from Alabama. The exterior limestone was quarried near Batesville, Arkansas while a softer Indiana limestone was used for the dome. The Capitol contains 247,000 square feet. The distance from ground level to the top of the cupola is 213 feet. The cupola is covered in gold leaf.



Exhibits and Displays

Displayed throughout the Capitol are portraits of Arkansas's past Governors and Supreme Court Justices. In the north and south corridors are four exhibit cases featuring changing exhibits interpreting Arkansas's history. Located on the north wall of the rotunda is a stained glass interpretation of the Great Seal of the State of Arkansas. Adopted by the state legislature in 1874, the seal contains 16 elements, each representing a connection with Arkansas. The eagle holds a scroll inscribed with the state's motto *Regnat Populus*, meaning "The People Rule." Its talons grasp a bundle of arrows representing war and an olive branch representing peace. Symbols of Arkansas's 19th century industries are contained on the shield covering the breast of the eagle. The steamboat represents the importance of water commerce along the state's rivers, and other symbols celebrate the importance of agriculture in Arkansas. The Goddess of Liberty crowning the seal holds a wreath and a pole topped by a liberty cap, all surrounded by a circle of stars. An angel on the left signifies "Mercy" and the sword on the right represents "Justice."



Second Floor

Governor's Reception Room (2nd Floor, North End)

Architecture

Restored in 2000 to its 1915 appearance, the Governor's Reception Room is used by the Governor to meet with staff, reporters, members of the public and to sign bills into law. The room is in the craftsman style, an interior design style that emphasizes natural materials. At each end of the room are fireplace mantels carved from Batesville limestone. The west mantel has carvings that represent French settlers; the east mantel's carvings bear the likenesses of Native Americans. These two groups were the first inhabitants of Arkansas, therefore, a rich part of its heritage. The chandelier, sconces and candelabras are original to the room, along with the quarter-sawn oak paneling. The wall and ceiling finishes are duplicates of the original decorative painting. Above the east mantel is the portrait of the most recent past governor to serve in office. A door in the northeast corner of the room opens to the Governor's private office.



Governor George Donaghey

Above the west mantel is a portrait of George Donaghey, the first governor to serve in the State Capitol. Governor Donaghey was instrumental in the completion of the new Arkansas State Capitol. At one point, Arkansas legislators risked leaving the Capitol unfinished because of a lack of necessary funding. Donaghey ran on the platform that if elected governor, he would ensure the Capitol would be completed. The walnut table in the center of the room was made from a tree that Donaghey's father planted on their family farm in Conway. Donaghey selected the tree and craftsmen to build the table and placed it in the Capitol to commemorate the state's 100th birthday.

The Rotunda (2nd Floor, center)

Public meetings, speeches, hearings, rallies and even weddings are held in this grand central space. Suspended from the ceiling by a 73-foot chain, the rotunda chandelier weighs more than 4,000 pounds and is approximately 12 feet in diameter and 18 feet in height. One of several light fixtures fashioned for the Capitol by the Mitchell-Vance Company of New York, the rotunda chandelier is an intricate assembly of literally thousands of brass, copper, zinc, iron and glass parts.



Decorative Elements

The Treasurer's Office, on the west side of the rotunda, contains a large vault secured by four doors and three time locks. The massive main vault door was difficult to move inside the Capitol. The 11-ton door was shipped by train and placed on a wagon to bring it into the building. The weight caused the wagon to sink, which prompted the workers to lay down tracks to move the door into place through the window using a block and tackle. Today, the vault only holds small amounts of cash, and its purpose is mainly decorative and ceremonial. Portraits of past governors featured in the rotunda areas include one of former Governor Bill Clinton, Arkansas's native son elected President of the United States. The six 10-foot-tall east front bronze doors, opposite the Treasurer's office, were purchased from Tiffany's in 1910 for \$10,000.



Old Supreme Court Chamber (2nd Floor, South End)

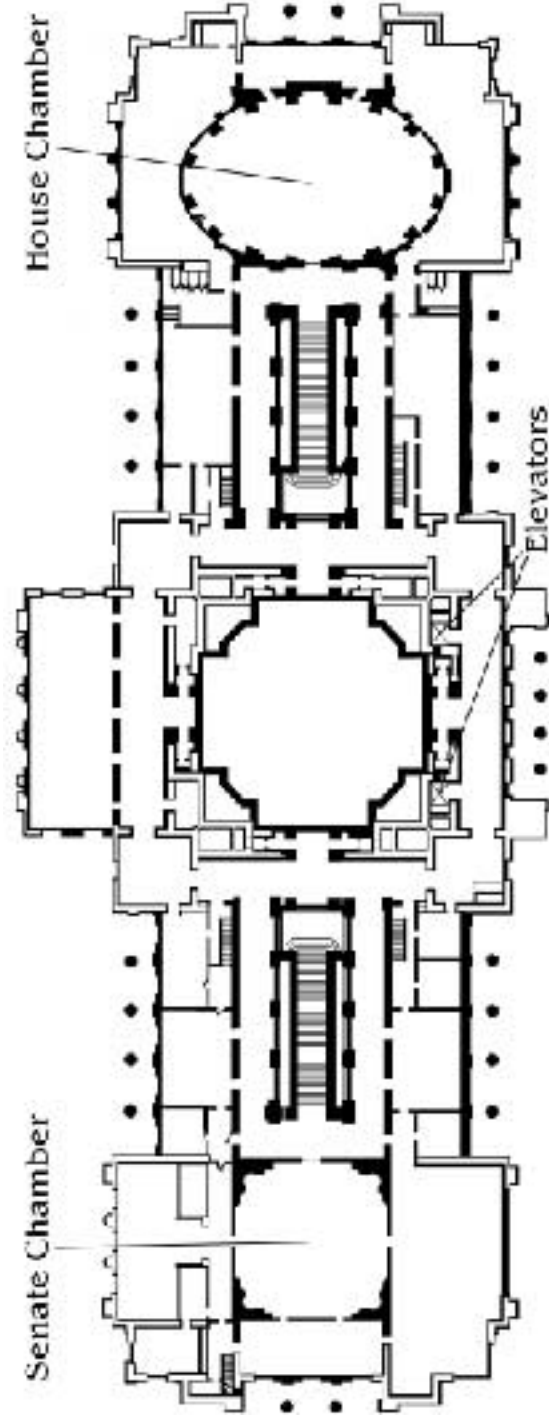
Function

The Arkansas Supreme Court met in this chamber from 1912 through 1958. However, because of increased case loads and other considerations, the Supreme Court moved to the Justice Building on the southwest corner of the Capitol complex. The chamber is now used for legislative committee meetings and lectures. The public uses the chairs that surround the outside of the mahogany rail, while seats inside the rail are used for committee members, staff and the press.

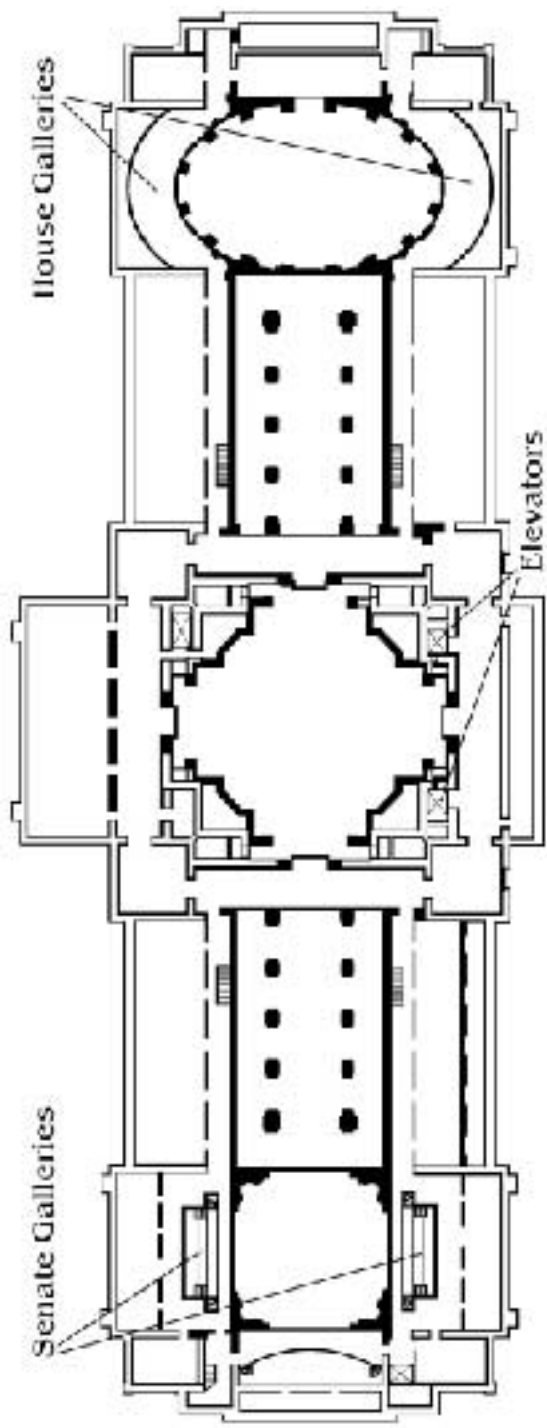
Restoration

In 2000, the chamber was restored to its 1912 appearance. Original furnishings in the room include the brass hand and foot rails, the mahogany rail, the light fixtures, ornamental plaster, the Justices' bench and their seven chairs. The reproduced carpet, curtains and chairs mimic those originally found in the room. Symbols illustrating the principles of justice are featured on the ceiling frieze: the green shield, a symbol of defense, represents purity and masculinity; the gray shield decorated with a dolphin and anchor represents prudence and truth, while the terra cotta oil lamp is a symbol of enlightenment.





Third Floor



Fourth Floor

Senate Chamber (3rd Floor, South End and Public Gallery 4th Floor)

Legislative Body

There are 35 senators in the Arkansas State Senate and they each represent approximately 76,000 people. Arkansas senators may serve a maximum of two four-year terms. The seating arrangement in the Senate is determined by seniority. The Lieutenant Governor serves as the President of the Senate and sits at the marble desk in the front of the room. The President Pro Tempore is elected by fellow senators to preside over the senate on occasions when the Lieutenant Governor is absent. Senate votes are taken by roll call. When a senator's name is called, he or she responds with a yea or nay vote; then the votes are tallied and the result is read aloud. The General Assembly, consisting of Arkansas's House and Senate, meets in regular session beginning the second Monday in January in each odd-numbered year. The regular session lasts for a minimum of 60 days, but can be extended by a two-thirds vote of both chambers. The governor may also call a special session if specific issues need to be addressed in the interim.

Decorative Features

The paint finishes in the room are reproductions of the originals; the furniture was crafted to resemble the original desks. In 1914, stained glass was added to the dome to reduce the sun's glare; the drapes were added to improve acoustics. The chandelier in the Senate is the smallest of the Mitchell-Vance fixtures purchased for the Capitol. Outside the chamber and galleries hang composite portraits of legislatures that have previously met in the Capitol.



House Chamber (3rd Floor, North End and Public Gallery, 4th Floor)

Legislative Body

Arkansas has 100 representatives, each representing approximately 26,000 people, who may serve a maximum of three two-year terms. Ninety-nine of the representatives sit on the chamber floor. The seating, as in the Senate, is determined by seniority. The 100th representative serves as the Speaker of the House and is seated by the U. S. flag at a desk in the front of the room. Fellow members of the House elect the Speaker for a two-year term. Next to the Speaker sits the Parliamentarian who interprets parliamentary

procedure for each session. The chairs below the Speaker are reserved for clerks and members of the press.



Voting Procedure

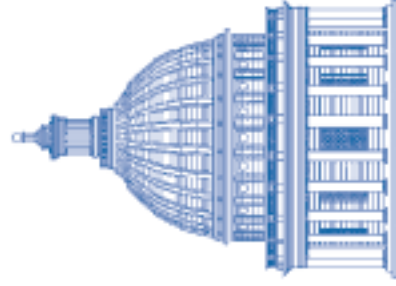
Representatives use the buttons at their desks to transmit votes to the chamber's electronic voting system. The green button transmits a "yea" vote; the red a

"nay" vote; and the yellow signals the member is present, but not voting. Votes are displayed by each member's name on the screens at the front of the chamber, and then tallied electronically to show the final vote totals.

Architectural Elements

The columns in the chamber are finished with a faux marble art form known as scagliola, which is a technique using gypsum, glue, pigment and marble dust to resemble marble. This finish was used in the chamber to reduce construction costs. The stained glass and drapes in the House dome, as in the Senate, were added in 1914 to reduce glare and temper the chamber's acoustics.





Downtown Little Rock Attractions

- 1 **Arkansas Arts Center**, 10th & Commerce
- 2 **Central Arkansas Library System, Cox Creative Center**, 120 Commerce
- 3 **Central High School Historic Site & Museum**, 2125 Daisy Bates Drive
- 4 **EMCBA: The Black Museum of Arkansas and Performing Arts**, 1208 Louisiana
- 5 **Governor's Mansion**, 17th & Center
- 6 **Heifer International Center**, (under construction)
- 7 **Historic Arkansas Museum**, 200 E 3rd
- 8 **Little Rock Marker, La Petit Roche**, North end of Rock Street in Riverfront Park
- 9 **Little Rock Visitor Information Center at Curran Hall**, 615 E Capitol
- 10 **MacArthur Museum of Arkansas Military History**, 503 E 9th Street

- 11 **Mt. Holly Cemetery**, 12th & Broadway
 - 12 **Museum of Discovery**, 500 President Clinton Avenue
 - 13 **Old State House Museum**, 300 W Markham
 - 14 **River Market**, Dining, Arts & Entertainment District, President Clinton Avenue
 - 15 **Statehouse Convention Center**, Markham & Main
 - 16 **William J. Clinton Presidential Center & Park**, Opening November 2004, 200 President Clinton Avenue
- ## Government Buildings
- 17 **Arkansas State Capitol**, Capitol & Windlane
 - 18 **Pulaski County Court House**, Markham & Spring
- ## Municipal Parking
- 19 **Municipal Parking Garage**, Markham & Spring

Compliments of

Arkansas Secretary of State Charlie Daniels

Map courtesy of Little Rock Monthly and Spectrum Graphics



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